

She also said, "Perhaps most alarming among these is the fact that if statistics are any indication, the system may well be allowing some innocent defendants to be executed."

Justice O'Connor now joins Supreme Court Justices Harry Blackmun and Lewis Powell, who also late in their lives came to reconsider their support of the death penalty.

But most importantly Justice O'Connor now joins the growing chorus of Americans who are concerned about the risk of executing the innocent and the fairness of the administration of the death penalty.

Congress can and should play a role in ensuring fairness. We can create an independent, blue ribbon panel to review the fairness of the administration of the death penalty at the state and federal levels. With so many serious concerns about how the death penalty is applied by the States and Federal Government, a simple, yet necessary, step is to create a commission to review these concerns. In addition, the Federal Government and all States that authorized the use of capital punishment should suspend executions while a thorough review of the death penalty system is undertaken.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of legislation introduced by Senator LEAHY that will take some important steps towards reducing the risk of executing the innocent, the Innocence Protection Act. But more can be done and Congress should do more. Congress should create a national commission on the death penalty and support a moratorium on executions while the commission conducts its work.

If we can agree that the system is flawed and runs the risk of executing innocent people, then we can also agree that we should undertake a thorough top-to-bottom review of the death penalty system. And while we do so, it is simply unjust to proceed with executions. I urge my colleagues to sponsor the National Death Penalty Moratorium Act. Congress should do everything it can to prevent even one innocent person from being sentenced to death.

I yield the floor.

#### LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred December 20, 1991 in Russian River, CA. A 45-year-old gay man, Joseph Mitchell, was stabbed to death along Highway 116 by a hitch-

hiker. Paul Daniel Huyck, 19, was arrested in Springfield, Oregon the first week of January 1992 in connection with the crime. He was charged with murder and violation of parole.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

#### NEW MEXICO FLOOD AND FEMA

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to thank my colleagues for acting quickly last summer in sending support to the Los Alamos community following the Cerro Grande fires. This swift response, coupled with the work of County officials, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Army Corps of Engineers helped control another act of mother nature that befell Los Alamos this past week.

Torrential rainstorms struck the region resulting in substantial flooding. In some areas the water swelled 60 feet as 1.75 inches of rain fell in less than one hour. Roads flooded and pavement was uprooted. Although at least six homes were evacuated, post-fire flood mitigation efforts prevented a much greater calamity.

Federal and local officials recognized a year ago that some of the fire damage created infrastructure problems that could lead to future flooding. This foresight proved decisive against the rushing floodwaters.

For example, the largest bridge in the town of Los Alamos—which spans the Pueblo Canyon—was saved by Congress' action and the efforts of the Army Corps of Engineers. Last year, recognizing the potential for floods, the Corps extended an 18-inch culvert to 7 feet in record time. I visited the culvert site during construction and was very impressed with the skill, dedication, and professionalism of the Corps of Engineers crew.

During the recent storms, the water swelled 55 feet and was within five feet from the top of the bridge. The bridge withstood the pressure, which it could not have done without the culvert. Without that culvert, the waters would have flowed over the roadway and probably destroyed the road and bridge. It would have cost \$15 million to replace the bridge.

More importantly, if the bridge had been destroyed half of the community would have been cut off from the laboratories and from all paved access to services and hospital facilities. Instead of direct access to the town, residents north of the bridge would have been rerouted twenty miles on dirt roads that traverse deep canyons.

Fortunately, Mr. President, this culvert and other mitigation measures

protected Los Alamos from its second natural disaster in two years. This is in large part due to the actions of my colleagues in Congress, and for this I extend my utmost gratitude. This assistance helped the people of Los Alamos to once again persevere against the odds.

#### SOUTH CAROLINA PEACHES

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise to recognize South Carolina's peach farmers for their hard work and their delicious peaches.

Today, peaches from my home State have been delivered to offices throughout the Senate and the U.S. Capitol. Thanks to South Carolina's peach farmers, those of us here in Washington will be able to cool off from the summer heat with delicious peaches.

For a relatively small State, South Carolina is second in the Nation in peach production. In fact, this year farmers across my State planted more than 16,000 acres of peaches. However, a late freeze has reduced this year's crop size by 40 percent. Nevertheless, South Carolina's peach farmers wanted to give us, here in Washington, a taste of South Carolina. And as my colleagues can attest, these are some of the finest peaches produced anywhere in the United States.

As we savor the taste of these peaches, we should remember the work and labor that goes into producing such a delicious fruit. While Americans enjoy peaches for appetizers, entrees and desserts, most do not stop to consider where they come from. Farmers will be laboring all summer in the heat and humidity to bring us what we call the "perfect candy." What else curbs a sweet tooth, is delicious, nutritious and satisfying, but not fattening?

The truth is, our farmers are too often the forgotten workers in our country. Through their dedication and commitment, our Nation is able to enjoy a wonderful selection of fresh fruit, vegetables, and other foods. In fact, our agricultural system, at times, is the envy of the world.

As Senators and their staff feast on these delicious peaches, I hope they will remember the people in South Carolina who made this endeavor possible: The South Carolina Peach Council, David Winkles and the entire South Carolina Farm Bureau. They have all worked extremely hard to ensure that the U.S. Senate gets a taste of South Carolina.

I am sure everyone in our Nation's Capitol will be smiling as they enjoy these delicious South Carolina peaches.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, July 9, 2001, the Federal debt stood at \$5,709,925,391,754.47, five trillion, seven

hundred nine billion, nine hundred twenty-five million, three hundred ninety-one thousand, seven hundred fifty-four dollars and forty-seven cents.

Five years ago, July 9, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,151,107,000,000, five trillion, one hundred fifty-one billion, one hundred seven million.

Ten years ago, July 9, 1991, the Federal debt stood at \$3,536,850,000,000, three trillion, five hundred thirty-six billion, eight hundred fifty million.

Fifteen years ago, July 9, 1986, the Federal debt stood at \$2,073,910,000,000, two trillion, seventy-three billion, nine hundred ten million.

Twenty-five years ago, July 9, 1976, the Federal debt stood at \$615,209,000,000, six hundred fifteen billion, two hundred nine million, which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion, \$5,094,716,391,754.47, five trillion, ninety-four billion, seven hundred sixteen million, three hundred ninety-one thousand, seven hundred fifty-four dollars and forty-seven cents during the past 25 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF COURT TV

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, this month marks the 10th anniversary of Court TV, which has played a crucial role in educating the public about our nation's criminal justice system. When Court TV went on the air in July of 1991, about nine out of ten Americans had never seen a trial. Now ten years later, Court TV has aired more than 732 trials nationally and provides more than 60 million households with the opportunity to watch trials—as well as other criminal justice-related programming—on a daily basis.

During those years, Court TV has provided the Nation with an extraordinary civics lesson, enabling Americans to see their own criminal justice system first-hand. Viewers have seen some of the nation's finest judges, prosecutors and defense attorneys at work and have watched the judicial process unfold—with the benefit of expert commentators and analysts. As part of that civics lesson, Court TV has enabled viewers to watch live trial coverage—for the first time ever—of cases involving such issues as, among other things: appellate arguments, breach of contract, jury selection, libel, medical malpractice, negligence, parole hearings, product liability, and even war crimes.

Mr. President, Court TV has also made a special commitment to helping reduce youth violence. Its public affairs initiative, "Choices and Consequences," has received the cable television industry's highest public service award, the Golden Beacon Award, for

its efforts to keep our Nation's children out of our Nation's courts. A middle school curriculum, based on trial coverage of cases involving youth offenders, has been provided to more than 10,000 schools. A new high school curriculum, which addresses bullying among other issues, is now available online and through Court TV's "Cable in the Classroom" feed. Cable television operators in more than 50 cities in 24 states, plus the District of Columbia, have also partnered with Court TV in supporting "Your Town" town meetings, which have addressed a wide range of issues affecting adolescents and have been aired nationally.

Earlier this year, Court TV chairman and CEO Henry Schleiff was honored to be joined by the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, J. Dennis Hastert, as well as Minority Leader Richard Gephardt and our colleague, Senator Sam Brownback, among other Congressional leaders, in announcing a new "media literacy" campaign designed to help students distinguished between the positive and negative images that they see in all forms of media—and to help them understand the consequences of actions in the real world that may seem inconsequential onscreen.

Court TV offers a unique mix of programming, including trial coverage by day and compelling stories of the criminal justice system in the evening. That mix has now made Court TV the fastest-growing basic cable network in the nation. Its growth is testament to the fact that high-quality programming can be both educational and entertaining.

Today, I am pleased to recognize the important contribution that Court TV has made to public understanding of the judicial branch of Government and to criminal justice issues more broadly, and we applaud and encourage its continued efforts to work with our nation's schools to reduce youth violence and help students understand that choices made in a moment can have consequences for a lifetime.●

##### CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PHOENIX HOME LIFE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

• Mr. DODD, Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Phoenix Home Life Mutual Insurance Company as it celebrates its 150th anniversary.

From its modest birth in 1851 as the Hartford-based American Temperance Life Insurance Company, the Phoenix has evolved into one of the largest and most well-respected insurance companies in the world. It has weathered many global watersheds of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries—including civil war, depressions, and world wars. But true to its name, the Phoenix has emerged from these and

other trials with an unswerving commitment to corporate innovation, social progress, and community service.

The Phoenix's corporate ethos thrives on a unique and important principle—one that encourages employees to invest human capital as a means of promoting community development. As a result, Phoenix serves as a paradigm for businesses truly committed to improving the quality of life of the people they serve. In 2000 alone, the Phoenix Foundation contributed \$1.6 million to charitable organizations across the country.

The Phoenix encourages its employees to devote 80 hours of company and personal time to community activities each year. The company also rewards its top 20 professional advisors through the Donor Award Program, which enables award recipients to designate up to \$2,000 to a local charity. Over the years, the Donor Award Program has provided vital funds to many organizations, including the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, Lou Gehrig Baseball, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Furthermore, Phoenix field offices have established a plethora of independent donation programs—many of which have benefited organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Habitat for Humanity, the YMCA, and the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation.

I am proud that the Phoenix's commitment to community development has helped many local organizations in the State of Connecticut. By lending their professional expertise, leadership, and time to a number of local outreach initiatives, Phoenix employees have worked assiduously to make a difference in their communities. For example, Phoenix employees in the Hartford office work in conjunction with Foodshare each summer to deliver vegetables donated by Connecticut farmers to area soup kitchens and homeless shelters. And in 1999, a group of Phoenix employees planned and organized Connecticut's first Adoption and Foster Care Exposition—an event that successfully promoted greater public awareness of these two important social issues.

The Phoenix has made significant contributions to the education of children. Through long-term partnerships with local schools such as the Fred D. Wish Elementary School in Hartford, Phoenix employees have worked individually with students in grades three through six to sharpen math skills and proficiency in the language arts. As a result, schools are seeing improved student attendance and higher student test scores. Phoenix also contributed \$75,000 toward the establishment of the Trinity College Boys and Girls Clubs—two Hartford-based organizations that provide education, culture, citizenship, health, and physical education programs for neighborhood children and